

Date: March 19, 2003

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Election
3-26-03



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 10012357-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Steven W. Trovinger and Ross R. Allen)
Application No.: 09/934,725) Confirmation No.: 5347
Filed: August 20, 2001) Examiner: Patrick Hewey Mackey
For: Binding System With Sheet-Wise)
Formation Of Features)

RESPONSE TO
ELECTION OF SPECIES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In an Official Action dated February 26, 2003, the Examiner has indicated that an election of one of the species in each of the following groups is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- Group I: Species A, B and C;
- Group II: Species D and E;
- Group III: Species F & G;
- Group IV: Species H and I; and
- Group V: Species J, K, L and M

Accordingly, Applicants provisionally elect:

Species A of Group I;

Species D of Group II;

Species F of Group III;

Species H of Group IV and

Species M of Group V, with traverse.

Presently, the following claims read on the respective Species:

Claims 1-3, 6-21 and 24-29 read on Species A of Group I.

With respect to Group II:

Claims 1-7 and 9-29 read on Species D.

With respect to Group III:

Claims 1-9 and 11-29 read on Species F.

With respect to Group IV:

Claims 1-12 and 14-29 read on Species H.

With respect to Group V:

Claims 1-15, 19-25 and 28-29 read on Species M.

At least claims 1-3, 6, 11, 14-15, 19-21, 24-25 and 28-29 are generic.

Applicants submit that the requirement for an election is in error. Because independent claims 1, 19 and 29 are generic to the species identified by the Examiner, and because these generic claims are considered to be allowable, it is respectfully submitted that the election requirement is in error. Further, upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants are entitled to claims directed to a reasonable number of species. It is respectfully submitted that the non-elected species identified by the Examiner constitute a reasonable number.

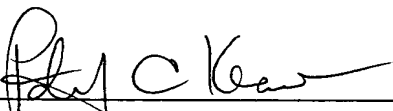
Further, the election requirement is traversed because it will not reduce the

workload of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or simplify prosecution of the application.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the aforementioned species election is respectfully requested. The provisional election is hereby made without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a divisional application or applications should the election of species requirement become final.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 19, 2003

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